

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1 - 3, 6 - 10 and 15 - 16 remaining pending in this application. In the second Office Action, made final, claims 1, 5 - 8, 11, 13 - 17, 19 and 21 were rejected while 2, 3, 9, 20, 22 and 23 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The invention is a missile launcher cell for canisterized missiles which can be formed into multiple-cell missile launcher arrays. The missile launcher cells may be interconnected in various combinations to form arrays of various number of cells configurations. Each cell contains its own elongated round exhaust gas chimney so that it may be used individually. There is no need to keep one or more cells vacant to provide venting of exhaust gases during launch. The elongated round exhaust gas chimneys provide venting of exhaust gases under hoop tension and require the least area for the amount of exhaust gas flow. This makes for a lighter weight, more compact missile launcher design which can be readily arrayed in various numbers of launchers.

The claims have been amended along the lines suggested by the Examiner to include the "round" limitation of the objected claims into the rejected base claims. Claim 1 has been amended to call for an elongated round exhaust chimney. None of the references, including Larson et al. has such a patentable feature. The Addition of the "round" limitation renders claim 1 patentable. Claims 2 and 3 now depend from a patentable base claim.

Claim 6 includes the limitation of elongated "round" exhaust chimneys and depends for patentable claim 1 and is a rewrite of objected to claim 20. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to include the "round" exhaust chimney and are therefore patentable. Claims 9 and 10 depend from allowable claim 8.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Claim 15 in the limitation of "round" exhaust gas chimney and is a rewrite of the "circular" cross-section from object to claim 22. Similarly claim 16 includes the "round" exhaust gas chimney limitation and is a rewrite of objected to claim 23.

Application No. 09/892,839
Response dated December 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action mailed September 30, 2003

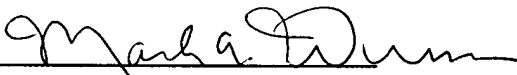
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Application is in condition of allowance and Applicant earnestly requests such a Notice. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representatives to expedite prosecution.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-2835.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: December 15, 2003

By: 

Mark A. Wurm

Lockheed Martin

9500 Godwin Drive

Mailstop: 400/043

Manassas, VA 20110

Telephone: 703-367-2128

Facsimile: 703-367-4259

Customer No: **38089**

 31,682